Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—(a) Yes.

(b) Two.

(c) March 1925 and February 1926—From the Hony. Secretary, Y. W. C. A., Kunnamkulam.

(d) Three.

(e) One from the Secretary, Y. M. C. A. Social Service Committee, in November 1925. For the other two, vide answer to part (c).

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What action has been taken by the Government with regard to those petitions?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—This question involves the principle of Local Option. The question will be considered, after the Excise Committee submits its Report.

President.—No order has been passed for the time being.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Has not the Travancore Government adopted the policy of Local Option?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—No, Sir.

President.—What about Local Option in British India?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—In the Madras Presidency, Local Option in its wider sense has not been adopted.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Is the Madras Government against Local Option?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The Madras Government has not passed any orders upon the recommendations of the recent Excise Advisory Committee.

President.—Probably the Report is under consideration.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—And even in the Report, what the majority of the members say with regard to Local Option is that they are not for introducing it in its wider sense. It is, therefore, premature to say what the view of the Madras Government is in regard to Local Option.

The location of liquor shops.

119. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) how many of the liquor shops in the State are located within two furlongs from places of markets, schools, places of public worship, hospitals, factories, public houses, railway stations and similar places of public resort;

(b) whether the Government is aware that a departmental circular order has been issued in Travancore that no arrack or toddy shops should be located within two furlongs of such places of public resort;

(c) whether our Government has issued any such circular; and if not,

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(d) whether there are any rules governing the location of liquor shops, and if so, what are they; and

(e) whether these rules have been strictly adhered to?

Mr. V B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—(a) 390.

(b) No.

(c) No. But the Inspectors of the department have been instructed to see that shops are not located objectionably close to places of worship, public offices, schools, etc.

(d) Yes. Clauses 15 and 18 of the Diwan's Notifications, dated 10th March 1925, Revenue Department (Separate Revenue), regarding the sale of toddy and arrack shops respectively. These are placed on the table. (*Vide Appendix I.*)

(e) Yes.

Mr. K. T. Mathew. – Will the Government find out whether the Travancore Excise Commissioner has passed any such order or circular?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I have got down the circular issued by the Excise Commissioner of Travancore, and that circular is not in the terms stated by the Hon'ble Member.

President.—So you have got the circular?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Recently, I got it.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know what are the terms of the circular?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The circular is that officers in charge of the Excise Divisions are informed that, *wherever practicable*, no arrack or toddy shop in future be located, etc. It is stated "*wherever practicable.*" So there is a quaiification. It is not a general circular, as stated by the Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam. It depends upon the circumstances of each case.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will that circular be put into effect in our State?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The Excise Committee will have to consider all these questions.

President.—You may note this point for the consideration of the Excise Committee.

120. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to inform whether the Government is not aware that an arrack shop is situated close to the Sirkar Boys' High School, Kunnamkulam, and what is the distance of this shop from the High School premises, and whether this shop is also situated close to the Police Station and the Anchal Office in Kunnamkulam, and what is the distance from this shop to these two public offices?

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